

Remarks

This Response is considered fully responsive to the Office Action mailed February 23, 2007. Claims 40-78 were pending in the application. Claims 48-61 are allowed. Claims 40-43, 45-47, 65, 66, 70-75, and 78 stand rejected. Claims 44, 67, 68, 69, 76, and 77 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. In this Response, claims 40, 43, 65, 70, and 71 are amended, claims 42, 44, 67, and 76 are canceled, and new claims 79-103 are added. Rejected independent claims 40, 65, 70, and 71 are amended to incorporate limitations of dependent claims 44, 67, and 76 that the Examiner indicated would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Furthermore, claim 43 is amended to change the dependency from canceled claim 42 to independent claim 40. Claims 40, 41, 43, 45-66, 68-75, and 77-103 are now pending in the application. Reexamination and reconsideration are requested.

Objection

The Office has objected to 44, 67, 68, 69, 76, and 77 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicant amended independent claim 40 to incorporate the limitations of claims 42 and 44. Applicant has also amended independent claim 65 to incorporate the limitation of claim 67. Applicant has further amended independent claims 70 and 71 to incorporate the limitation of claim 76. Claims 42, 44, 67, and 76 have been canceled. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the objections to pending claims 68 and 77 and to allow pending claims 68 and 77.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner has rejected claims 40-43, 45-47, 65, 66, 70-75, and 78 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Blumenau, et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,845,395 B1 ("Blumenau") in view of Nulu, et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,650,347 B1 ("Nulu"). The Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection for at least the following reasons.

Independent claim 40, from which claims 41, 43, and 45-47 depend, is amended to incorporate the limitations of claims 42 and 44 that the Examiner indicated would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claims 40, 41, 43, and 45-47 are thus believed to be allowable.

Independent claim 65, from which claim 66 depends, is amended to incorporate the limitation of claim 67 that the Examiner indicated would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claims 65 and 66 are thus believed to be allowable.

Independent claim 70 is amended to incorporate the limitation of claim 76 that the Examiner indicated would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claim 70 is thus believed to be allowable.

Independent claim 71, from which claims 72-75 and 78 depend, is amended to incorporate the limitation of claim 76 that the Examiner indicated would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claims 71-75 and 78 are thus believed to be allowable.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection of claims 40, 41, 43, 45-47, 65, 66, 70-75, and 78 and allow claims 40, 41, 43, 45-47, 65, 66, 70-75, and 78.

New Claims

New claims 79-103 are added and are believed to recite a computer-readable medium or method that is not disclosed or suggested in the cited references. In particular, new independent claim 79 recites a computer-readable medium that corresponds to the method recited in amended independent claim 40. New independent claim 85 recites a computer-readable medium that corresponds to the method recited in independent claim 48. New independent claim 95 recites a method corresponding to the computer-readable medium recited in independent claim 60. Finally, new independent claim 100 recites a computer-readable medium that corresponds to the method recited in amended independent claim 65.

Fees for the new claims 79-103 of \$1950 are being paid electronically herewith, via Deposit Account No. 50-3199. Applicant believes no other fees or petitions are due with this filing. However, should any such fees or petitions be required, please consider this a request therefor and authorization to charge Deposit Account No. 50-3199 as necessary.

Conclusion

Claims 40, 41, 43, 45-66, 68-75, and 77-103 are currently pending in the application. Applicant has fully responded to each and every objection and rejection in the Office action dated February 23, 2007 and believes that claims 40, 41, 43, 45-66, 68-75, and 77-103 are in a condition for allowance. Applicant therefore requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

If the Examiner should require any additional information or believes any issues could be resolved via a telephone conference, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

May 22, 2007

Date

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